



EUGENE BLM

"EYE TO THE FUTURE"



Planning and Project Focus

FEBRUARY 2000

A Note from the District Manager

This edition of the Eugene "Eye to the Future" is part of our continuing effort to keep you informed of ongoing and proposed activities on the Eugene District. It is our way of keeping you informed and involved in our plans and progress.

In this issue we will provide an update on many of the projects that we have covered in previous issues of this newsletter—projects that have been initiated but for which have not yet reached a final decision. New policies and legal opinions, especially those dealing with Survey and Manage Species, the Aquatic Conservation Strategy, and Marbled Murrelet habitat, have led to postponing decisions on many of these projects. For some, additional fieldwork and analysis will be needed and new environmental assessments may be required, while others could be dropped entirely. The decision on whether or not to proceed on any particular project will be based on the merits of the project and workload considerations. Through this newsletter, we will continue to update you on the status of these projects.

Denis Williamson
District Manager

Don't forget to visit our website at: www.edo.or.blm.gov for copies of our Annual Program Summary, Watershed Analysis, Recreation Opportunities, West Eugene Wetlands information, Environmental Assessments, and this planning newsletter just to name a few.

National and Regional Planning Efforts

OHV Management Strategy to be Developed by Bureau of Land Management

In mid-January, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announced that it will develop a national strategy for ensuring environmentally responsible Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) use on BLM managed public lands. The strategy BLM develops will be aimed at recognizing the interests of OHV users while protecting environmentally sensitive areas on the public lands.

Off-Highway Vehicles and other forms of recreational transportation – sport utility vehicles, motorcycles, and mountain bikes are more popular than ever. Much of this use is occurring on BLM-managed lands designated as “open” to cross-country travel based on land-management plans that the Bureau drew up in the 1970s and 1980s when OHV use was comparatively small. These land-management plans are outdated not only because of increased OHV use, but also because of the rise in the number of threatened and endangered species found on BLM lands.

Additionally, BLM’s budget related resources, including the number of recreational specialists and law enforcement personnel, have not kept pace with the past decade’s growth in OHV use. All of these factors, plus litigation over OHV management issues, have created the need for a national OHV management strategy. For further information on this subject, please visit BLM’s national web page (www.blm.gov).

Third Year Evaluation of District RMP

An evaluation of the Eugene District’s Resource Management Plan (RMP) continues to be underway. The District RMP fully incorporates Northwest Forest Plan provisions, including the establishment of a three year evaluation cycle. The third year evaluation process includes a review of monitoring records and implementation process, with the broader purpose of determining whether RMP objectives are being met or and whether changed circumstances or new information have

altered expected impacts. The evaluation process may identify a potential need for plan maintenance, amendment or revision, or a potential need to change an RMP implementation practice.

The BLM has analyzed the information and the State Director’s preliminary findings of the Eugene District evaluation, and those of other western Oregon will be available for public review and comment this Spring. For additional information on this process, contact Wayne Elliott, Resource Advisor at 683-6989.

Survey and Manage Species

The Northwest Forest Plan’s (NFP) Record of Decision contains standards and guidelines that required surveys for 80 Survey and Manage and Protection Buffer species prior to fiscal year 1999 ground disturbing activities. A “Finding of No Significant Impact” was signed on March 3, 1999 authorizing the delay of surveys for 32 species.

In December 1999, the BLM and US Forest Service published a draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) to analyze several issues related to Survey and Manage Standards and Guidelines. This issues include: clarify direction in the NFP Record of Decision, fix the Bat Roost Standard and Guideline so as to not require actions which have since been found to be harmful, provide a process for adaptive management, incorporate protection buffers and protect from grazing, and re-evaluate the species management needs.

The draft SEIS public comment period will close on March 3, 2000. The BLM and USFS are expected to sign the Record of Decision for the final SEIS in June 2000. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is a partner in this effort. For more information, and to access the draft SEIS, visit (www.or.blm.gov/nwfp.htm).

MCKENZIE RESOURCE AREA

LOST CREEK WATERSHED

<1>Round Bear Timber Sale

Contact: Don Wilbur (683-6994)

Location: T.19S., R.2W., Section 23; T.19S., R.1W., Section 31; T.20S., R.2W., Section 1; T.20S., R.2W., Sections 11 and 12.

The proposed EA for the Round Bear Timber Sale would combine some areas originally evaluated in the Ant Farm EA and Lost Creek FY 99 Analysis Area EA. There is a proposal to thin an estimated 210 acres and regenerate an estimated 17 acres. This proposal includes density management in riparian reserves.

Status: *Work will start on the EA in March.*

<2>Little Rest Timber Sale

Contact: Don Wilbur (683-6994)

Location: T.19S., R.1W., Section 33; T.20S., R.1W., Section 3; T.20S., R.1W., Section 5.

The proposed EA for the Little Rest Timber Sale would contain areas originally evaluated in the Lost Creek FY 99 Analysis Area EA. There is a proposal to thin an estimated 140 acres and regenerate an estimated 19 acres. This proposal includes density management in riparian reserves.

Status: *Work will start on the EA in March.*

MOHAWK WATERSHED

<3>Off-Highway-Vehicle Trails

Contact: Liz Aleman (683-7578)

Location: Shotgun, Drury, Showalter and Cash Creek drainages

This project springs from an action item identified in the Mohawk Recreation Area Management Plan (MRAMP), whereas the BLM committed to working with interested user groups to designate a multiple-use trail system in the Mohawk Area. The

project includes trail construction, maintenance, improvement and signing.

Status: *The EA is currently being prepared and is expected to be available for public review in March.*

<4>Road Decommission and Improvement

Contact: Trish Wilson (683-6448)

Location: Shotgun, Drury, Showalter and Cash Creek drainages

There is a proposal to decommission an estimated 11 miles of road and improve an estimated 17 miles of road. The need for action is to remove roads that are not needed within the next twenty years for management purposes and to improve roads needed for the long-term. Roads need to be removed that are no longer needed for timber management and are causing resource damage. Roads also need to be closed due to decreasing funds for road maintenance. The amount of roads requiring maintenance needs to be reduced. Road improvements are needed because of existing safety, sedimentation and fish passage concerns.

Status: *The EA is currently being prepared and is expected to be available for public review in March.*

LITTLEFALL CREEK AND HILLS CREEK WATERSHEDS

<5>Little Falls/Hills Creek Watershed Analysis

Contact: Don Wilbur (687-6994)

Location: East of Jasper

The Little Falls/Hills Creek Watershed is approximately 52,235 acres. Approximately 5,312 acres are BLM administered lands. The information that comes from a watershed analysis provides the basis for future land management activities, including monitoring and restoration programs. Watershed analysis is not a plan but a process of gathering information to be used for future planning.

Status: *The analysis is currently being prepared and is expected to be completed in March.*

MCKENZIE WATERSHED

<6>Landscape Design

Contact: Trish Wilson (683-6448)

Location: On BLM lands, 3 miles east of Leaburg to just past Silver Creek boat ramp on both sides of the McKenzie River

The project involves BLM administered lands within the Central Cascade Adaptive Management Area (CCAMA) which includes the Bear-Marten and Vida watersheds. The project area contains 16,595 acres of BLM administered land of which 8,282 is within key watersheds. The Landscape Design is an extension of the watershed analysis. It will be used for future planning on BLM lands in the CCAMA.

Status: *We are continuing to work on this project.*

<7>Giustina Resources Road Right-of-way Agreement

Contact: Trish Wilson (683-6448)

Location: T16S,R1E sections 36

Roads: 17-1E-1 and 16-1E-35 and 16-1E-35.1.

The McKenzie Resource Area and Giustina Resources proposed to acquire legal access over lands or roads owned or controlled by BLM. There are 80 acres of Giustina Resources land that BLM does not have legal right to use existing roads and/or construct new roads to access BLM land. Giustina Resources does not have legal access to BLM controlled roads that would allow it to access its property. Without legal access to use BLM controlled roads, Giustina Resources may have to construct more roads to access their lands than if they used BLM roads.

Status: *The EA is being prepared and is expected to be available for public review in March.*

<8>Giustina Land and Timber Road Right-Of-Way Agreement

Contact: Greg Bashor (683-6232)

Location: T.16S.,R2E., sec 23,24, 25
T.16S.,R.3E. Sec 29, 33; T.17S.,R.3E sec 4

The McKenzie Resource Area and Giustina Land and Timber Co. Limited Partnership (GLT) proposes to consolidate and replace existing road use authorizations with a new reciprocal right-of-way agreement, E-889. The McKenzie Resource Area and GLT also propose to acquire new legal access over existing roads controlled by the other party. GLT also proposes to construct a new spur road over Bureau of Land Management (BLM) not included in the existing agreements.

Status: *The EA is being prepared and is expected to be available for public review in May.*

<9>Bonneville Power Administration Road Right-Of-Way Agreement

Contact: Dave Mattson (683-6481)

Location: road 17-2-22

The proposed action from BPA is to obtain permanent access over a new route constructed over BLM land. The proposed route is about 900 feet long. This route would be a rock road over which BPA would have permanent access to their powerlines. Gates most likely be installed to prevent unauthorized use over this portion of the road.

Status: *The EA is being prepared and is expected to be available for public review in March.*

COAST RANGE RESOURCE AREA

Lake Creek Watershed

<1>Upper Lake Creek Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) - Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP).

Contact: Sandra Miles (683-6227)

Location: 15,000 acres above Horton to the border of the BLM Salem District, includes Hult Reservoir, also known as the Mill Pond or Hult Pond.

The SRMA is mostly in Lake Creek Watershed, but with some portions in Long Tom and South Fork Alsea.

Status: *The Resource Area (RA) is developing a recreation plan for this RMP designated area. A draft Environmental Assessment (EA) is expected to be available for public review in April 2000, with a final plan and Record of Decision in June 2000.*

<2>Hult Pond Bridge Replacement.

Contact: Eric Meyers (683-6977)

Location: T.15S, R7W, Sec.26

The RA is replacing an existing bridge.

Status: *An Environmental Assessment (EA) is expected to be out for public review March 2000.*

<3>Lake Creek Habitat Management Plan Update.

Contact: Neil Armantrout (683-6451).

An HMP is expected to be out for public review this Spring. Restoration efforts noted in the HMP are planned for seven sites in Fish Creek during the Summer months 2000.

Status: *An EA is expected to be available in March or April 2000.*

Wolf Creek Watershed

<4> B-Happy Commercial Thinning

Contact: Phil Redlinger (683-6977)

Location: T.18S, R.6W, Section 33

A commercial thinning is proposed for this site, located four to five miles south of Vaughn in the Matrix Land Use Allocation. The proposed site encompasses approximately 450 acres.

Status: *The Environmental Assessment (EA) was initially released for public review in June 1999. Only one comment was received. A final decision has been deferred until the survey and manage requirements have been completed. The proposed action may be modified to comply with management recommendation if any survey and manage species are found. If*

modifications are substantial, a new EA may be prepared. Surveys should be completed by Spring 2000 and a new EA or final decision would follow.

<5> Saleratus Culvert Replacement

Contact: Gary Cairns (683-6771)

Location: T.18S, R8W, Sec.36

Replacement of existing culvert to improve stream hydraulics and aquatic animal passage. This is a cooperative project with Roseburg Resources and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Status: *An EA supplement will be prepared in March 2000.*

Siuslaw Watershed

<6>Kline Creek Bridge Repair

Contact: Eric Meyers (683-6499)

Location: T.19s, R.8W, Sec. 16

Replacement of existing wood crib abutments with concrete abutments.

Status: *An Environmental Assessment is expected to be out for public review in March 2000.*

<7>Mill Creek/ Esmond Creek Culvert Replacement.

Contact: Brett Jones (683-6274)

Replacement of existing culverts to improve stream hydraulics and aquatic animal passage.

Status: *An EA supplement will be prepared in March 2000.*

<8>Siuslaw River Stream Enhancement Projects -Cascades near North, Pugh and Fawn Creeks.

Contact: Leo Poole (683-6289)

This is the second phase of a project that includes the installation of three new culverts (phase 1 - completed 1999), installation of three culverts in the Siuslaw River below the new culverts (phase 2), and stream enhancement in North and Pugh Creeks (phase three - 2001).

<9>Siuslaw River Stream Enhancement Project - Clay Creek Campground Area
Contact: Leo Poole (683-6289)

This stream enhancement project consists of installing single and clustered boulders and a few logs in a fashion that will collect spawning gravels and add complexity to the area below the park swim area.

<10>Esmond Creek Stream Enhancement Projects 2001
Contact: Leo Poole (683-6289)

The BLM is proposing a cooperative project with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Roseburg Resources Inc. to restore degraded stream and riparian habitats in the Esmond Creek Drainage for 2001.

Status: Environmental Assessment is planned for public review in the Spring of 2000.

Wildcat Watershed

<11>Wildcat Road Decommissioning.
Contact: Brett Jones (683-6274)
Location: Wildcat Watershed

Decommissioning of 22 miles of road within the watershed.

Status: An Environmental Assessment is expected to be available for public review April 15, 2000.

<12> Haynes Head- BLM/ Oregon Department of Forestry Cooperative Agreement.
Contact: Cheryl Adcock (683-6145)

Location: T.17S, R.7W, Sec. 17

The purpose of the project is to grant ODF a Permit to construct 1866 feet of road on BLM managed land.

Status: An Environmental Assessment will be available for public review March 15, 2000.

Lower Siuslaw Watershed

<13>Cannery Dune Non-native Vegetation Removal

Contact: Mark Stephen (683-6439)

Location: BLM parcel located within the city limits of Florence. T.18S, R.12W, SE1/4 NE1/4, Will. Mer.

The BLM is proposing a non-native vegetation removal project, primarily European beachgrass and Scotch broom. The proposed project area is approximately three acres in size and contains a strip of planted European beachgrass, of variable width on the BLM parcel immediately to the north of the Sandpines Golflinks/ BLM property line. The goal of the project is to reduce the potential for the spread of non-native vegetation and maintain the open, unvegetated character of the active sand dune.

Status: The Environmental Assessment is planned to be available for public review in May 2000.

SOUTH VALLEY RESOURCE AREA

Upper Coast Fork Willamette River

<1>Cottage Grove Lake/ Big River Watershed Restoration Plan.

Contact: Rick Colvin (683-6659)

Location: Upper Coast Fork Willamette River Watershed, formerly known as Cottage Grove Lake/ Big River Watershed.

The watershed restoration plan proposes activities on BLM managed lands that would contribute to the restoration of selected stream reaches and upland wildlife habitat. Included in the draft plan are proposals for decommissioning roads in the watershed. This watershed is located southeast of the town of Cottage Grove and contains approximately 24,400 acres of BLM managed land.

Status: The draft plan and Environmental Assessment were released for a 30-day public review on January 19, 2000. The comment period ended on February 18, 2000; no comments were received. A final decision is anticipated by April 2000.

<2> Alton Hill Density Management Thinning.

Contact: Janet Zentner (683-6795)

Location: T.23S, R.3W, Sec. 17

A density management thinning is proposed for this site, located about four to five miles south of London Springs in the Matrix Land Use Allocation. The proposed site encompasses approximately 65 acres.

Status: The Environmental Assessment (EA) was initially released for public review in June-July, 1999. Only one comment was received. A final decision document has been deferred until the survey and manage requirements have been completed. The proposed action may be modified to comply with management recommendations for any species found. If modifications are substantial, a new EA may be prepared. Surveys should be completed by Spring 2000, and a new EA or final decision would follow.

Row River Watershed

<3> Dorena Lake Density Management Thinning.

Contact: Janet Zentner (683-6795)

Location: T.20S, R.2W, Sec. 25

The proposed project would involve completing a density management thinning on approximately 120 acres on a parcel in the Row River Watershed. The proposed project is about a mile east of Dorena Reservoir. An Environmental Assessment is being prepared and is anticipated to be available for public review in early Summer 2000.

Status: An Environmental Assessment is being prepared and is anticipated to be available for public review in early Summer 2000.